the parentage of these hybrids, however, have not been kept, and published statements of their parentage are often mere guesswork. Certainly many of these hybrids have been obtained by crossing not only species but hybrids. This mingling of plants, themselves often of unknown or uncertain origin, has produced difficulties of determination which no amount of study will probably ever overcome; and of all hybrid Azaleas the parentage only of this Wellesley plant is really known, a fact which certainly adds to its value and interest.

The third Japanese species which is now well established in the Arboretum is *Rhododendron reticulatum*, the oldest name for the plant more generally known as *R. rhombicum*. This plant is common over a large part of Japan, growing on open wind-swept hillsides, on the borders of the forest and in the shade of thick woods. The flowers are deep magenta color, red-purple or rose-color, and do not harmonize with those of several other Azaleas, but when *R. rhombicum* is isolated or planted with white-flowered plants it is when in flower one of the most beautiful and distinct of all hardy Azaleas. A white-flowered form (var. *albiflorum*) is known to Japanese botanists but this plant, which is said to be rare, is not in gardens.

Early-flowered American Azaleas. Before the flowers of *Rhododendron Vaseyi* have entirely faded those of the two most widely distributed species of eastern North America, *R. nudiflorum* and *R. canescens*, begin to open. These plants are common from New England to Texas; they have pink, very fragrant flowers which open before and as the leaves emerge from the bud, and very similar in general character, will perhaps sometime be considered varieties of one species. They have been planted in considerable numbers in the Arboretum and grow equally well in open borders or in the partial shade of woods. Before their flowers fade those of the flame or yellow-flowered Azalea (*R. calendulaceum*) of the Appalachian Mountains, the most splendid of American Azaleas, will begin to open.

The Rowan Tree, as the European Mountain Ash (*Sorbus Aucuparia*) is often called, has certainly not before in the Arboretum been more thickly covered with its wide clusters of white flowers or appeared to be in a most satisfactory condition. The largest and best of the Arboretum trees were sown by birds; there are several of these trees in different parts of the Arboretum and others are constantly springing up. Handsome at this season of the year, they are more beautiful in the autumn when the branches bend under the weight of the clusters of scarlet fruit which birds eagerly seek. Several plants of a Chinese Mountain Ash, *Sorbus discolor* (sometimes called *S. pekinensis*) in the group of these plants on the left hand side of the Valley Road near the Swamp White Oaks, now covered with flowers, show the oramental character of this tree at this season of the year. This Mountain Ash is a tall, slender, hardy tree with leaves composed of narrow, long-pointed leaflets pale on the lower surface, broad open clusters of snow-white flowers, which are followed by small yellowish white fruits in drooping clusters. *Sorbus alnifolia* is also very full of flowers; it is a common Japanese tree, one of the species of an Old World section of the genus with

1920. "Early-flowered American Azaleas." *Bulletin of popular information - Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University* 6(7), 27-27.

<https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321038>.

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/216956>

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.321038>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/321038>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

BHL-SIL-FEDLINK

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The BHL considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection.

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.